DQO Process Flowchart

1. State the Problem to be Solved
Concisely describe the problem to be solved. Review prior studies and existing information to gain a sufficient understanding to define the problem.

2. Identify the Decision to be Made
Identify what questions the study will attempt to resolve, and what actions may result.

3. Identify the Inputs to the Decision
Identify the information that needs to be obtained and the measurements that need to be taken to resolve the decision statement.

4. Define the Study Boundaries
Specify the time periods and spatial area to which decisions will apply. Determine generally when and where data should be collected.

5. Develop a Decision Rule
Define the statistical parameter of interest, specify the action level, and integrate the previous DQO outputs into a single statement that describes the logical basis for choosing among alternative actions.

6. Specify Tolerable Limits on Decision Errors
Define the decision maker's tolerable decision error rates based on a consideration of the consequences of making an incorrect decision.

7. Optimize the Design for Obtaining Data
Evaluate information from the previous steps and generate alternative data collection designs.
Choose the most resource-effective design that meets all DQOs.

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